Disabled-friendly trains

4450. DR. AKHILESH DAS :
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while 75 per cent concession in railway fares is given to thalesemia patients and 50 per cent to cancer, heart and kidney patients seeking treatment in well known centers; no concessions or facilities like disabled friendly trains and platforms as per Disability Act of 1995 have been granted to the disabled; and

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring the disabled by the railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Railways grant 50% concession in AC 2-tier and AC first Class and 75% concession in Second, Sleeper, First, AC Chair Car and AC 3-tier Mail/Express fares to thalessemia, cancer, heart and kidney patients. Certain categories of disabled persons *i.e.* orthopaedically handicapped, deaf and dumb, blind and mentally retarded persons are also granted concession in fares subject to certain terms and conditions.

Regarding facilities to disabled persons, a new design of coach has been developed which has disabled-friendly features like wider entrances and aisles to allow wheel chair movement, modified toilets and other facilities. Such coaches have already been put into service. At stations, Railways have decided to provide facilities like standard ramp for barrier free entry, non-slippery walkway, signages, toilets, water taps suitable for needs of handicapped persons, ramps on Foot Over Bridge (FOB)/subway, etc. These facilities are being introduced at various stations in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources and relative priorities.

Stepping up security

4451. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Centre has asked States to step up security in all violence-prone areas to ensure safety to rail passengers;

(b) what steps are being taken to modernise signalling equipment, overhaul old railway tracks and training to concerned personnel to eliminate risk of human failure, and